

Using Internet technologies to
increase efficiency and quality of
information collection, monitoring
and knowledge management

Student and Exchange Visitor Program



Terminology



- ** The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is the overall program.
- ** The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the automated system.
- ** The Coordinated Interagency Program Regulating International Students (CIPRIS) was the pilot program.



Visa Categories



* ** F visa (academic student) (FY2000 Data)

648,793	F-1 nonimmigrant academic students
40,179	F-2 dependents of F-1s

* ** M visa (non-academic student)

10,288	M-1 nonimmigrant vocational students
693	M-2 dependents of M-1s

* ** J visa (DOS exchange visitor)

*300,000	J-1/J-2
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*estimated



What Is SEVIS



SEVIS is the reengineered student and exchange visitor (F, M, & J visa categories) process designed to convert a manual, paper-driven process to an automated one and:

- * Collect, maintain, and track information relative to international students and exchange visitors
- * Improve data collection and reporting
- * Facilitate compliance with regulations
- * Monitor school and exchange programs
- * Provide customer service



SEVIS



This Internet-based system will modernize information collection and improve data processing by:

- * Minimizing data entry errors.
- * Eliminating duplication.
- * Reducing data latency.
- * Minimizing fraud.
- * Providing information/data sharing



SEVP



Program development has been a result of a partnership including the INS, the Department of State (DOS) consular affairs office and exchange visitor program (formerly USIA), the Department of Education (DOEd), and school and exchange visitor experts.



Program Chronology



- Feb 1993 – World Trade Center bombing, student suspected.
- May 1995 -- INS internal review of student procedures.
- Sept. 1996 -- Public Law 104-208, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, enacted.
- Dec. 1996 -- Task force vision concept approved by INS Commissioner.
- June 1997 -- **CIPRIS pilot** project began.



Program Chronology



Oct. 1999 -- Pilot ends. CIPRIS continues as an **operational prototype** at the Atlanta Hartsfield airport and district office, Texas service center, 21 educational institutions, and DOS headquarters.

Summer/fall 2000 -- **National Student & Exchange Visitor Program** developed based on lessons learned from pilot, stakeholder and customer feedback, and the requirements of IIRIRA 641.



Program Chronology



- Dec. 2000 & Jul. 2001 -- Pre-deployment site visits in Boston area in preparation for test.
- Aug.-Sept. 2001 -- SEVIS Vendor Conferences
- Sept. 11, 2001 -- World Trade Center attacks, student suspected
- Oct. 2001 -- SEVIS test training in Boston
- Oct. 2001 -- Public Law 107-56, the Patriot Act, enacted.



Significance of IIRIRA s641

(Pub. L. 104-208, as amended by Pub. L. 106-396)



- ✱✱ Establish electronic reporting, where feasible, and self-fund the program through a fee paid by international students and exchange visitors.
- ✱✱ Collect current information.
- ✱✱ Consult with DOS and DOEd to establish a process for schools and exchange programs to report on both international students and exchange visitors.



Significance of PATRIOT ACT s416

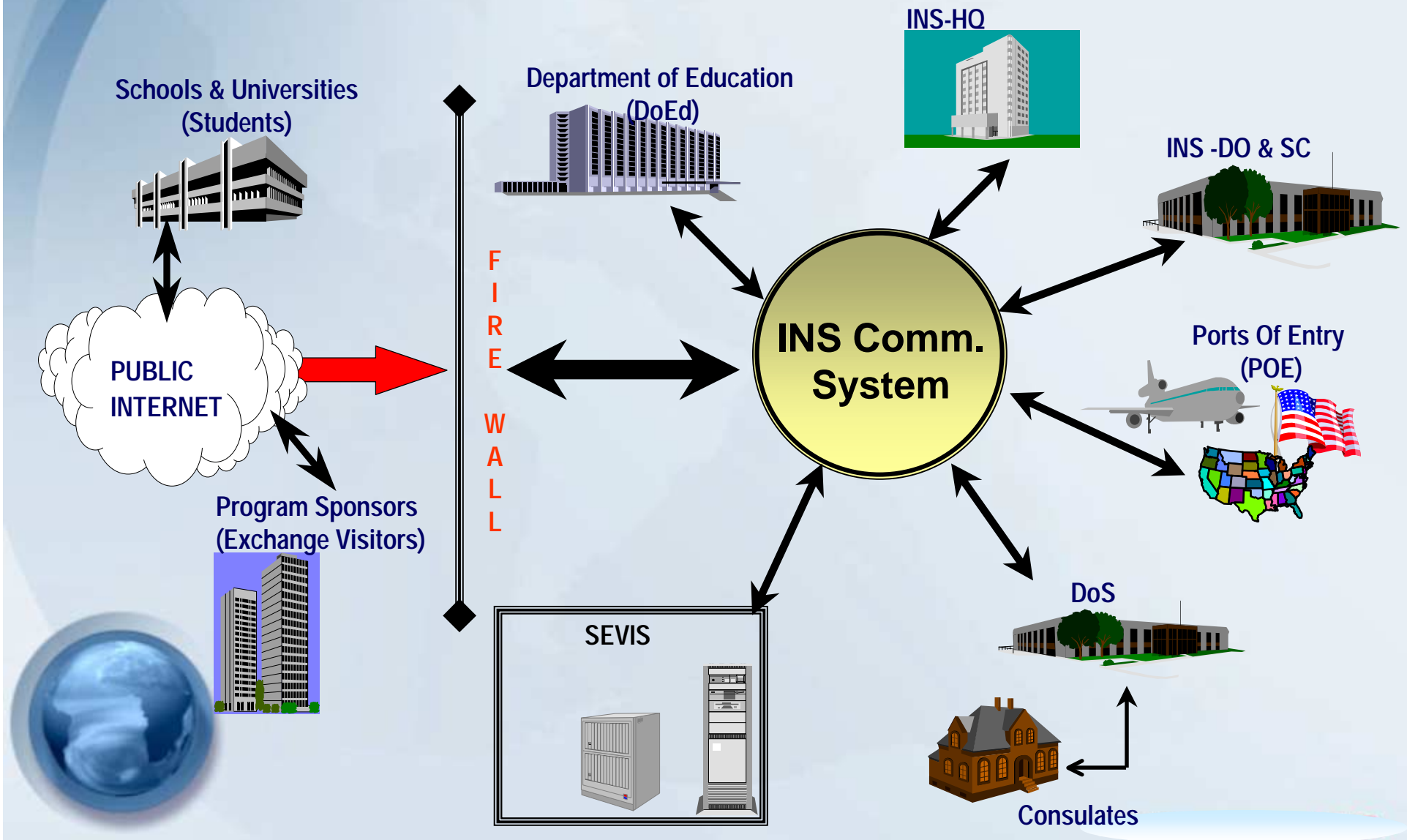
(Pub. L. 107-56)



- ✱✱ Integration with Port of Entry information, including date of entry and port of entry.
- ✱✱ To fully implement and expand SEVIS prior to January 1, 2003.
- ✱✱ Authorizes appropriations to DOJ of \$36.8M to meet deadlines.



SEVP Architecture



Tech Talk



- * Design features include strong user identification, authentication and encryption. Once authenticated, a user's profile will determine which data is viewable.
- * The architecture provides a seamless approach to data and information sharing over a broad range of widely distributed heterogeneous systems within INS and across agency and departmental boundaries.



What Data IS Collected?



DATA REQUIRED BY REGULATION

INS regulations at 8 CFR 214.3(g) (Data collected manually since 1983)

- ♦ Name, PDOB
- ♦ Country of citizenship, address
- ♦ Status (full time v. part time)
- ♦ Date of commencement of studies
- ♦ Degree program and field of study
- ♦ Practical training (beginning/ending dates)
- ♦ Termination date and reasons, if known
- ♦ I-20 & application for I-20, etc.
- ♦ Number of credits completed per year
- ♦ Photocopy of student's I-20ID copy

DOS regulations at 22 CFR 62

- ♦ IAP-66 information, address & telephone numbers



What Data IS Collected?



DATA REQUIRED BY LAW

IIRIRA 641(c) (*Data not currently collected in italics*)

- ♦ Identity and current address of alien
- ♦ Visa classification, date of visa issuance or classification granted
- ♦ Current academic or program status of alien (e.g., in compliance, full-time, part-time)
- ♦ Academic disciplinary actions taken against the alien due to criminal conviction

Patriot Act 416(b)

- ♦ Information on the date of entry and port of entry



What SEVIS Is



- ** A database of current international student and EV information.
- ** A database of easily shared data.
- ** A tool to monitor and track F, M, and J non-immigrants.
- ** A tool that can recognize, predict and report trends and anomalies.



SEVIS Is Not



* * Complex Design

- *
* SEVIS uses an approach based on proven technology

* * Expensive Design

- *
* Using proven tools and techniques

* * Burdensome to the users

- *
* It will clearly simplify reporting



The Student or EV



What's the benefit

- *
** Faster benefit processing
- *
** Transparent to students or EV
- *
** Protect and strengthen the integrity of programs for international students and exchange visitors



The School or Sponsor



What's the benefit



- * Free access and use of system
- * Faster benefit processing
- * System alerts to help keep students in status
- * Improved efficiency
- * Fewer reinstatements
- * Better informed DSO's and RO's



The Government

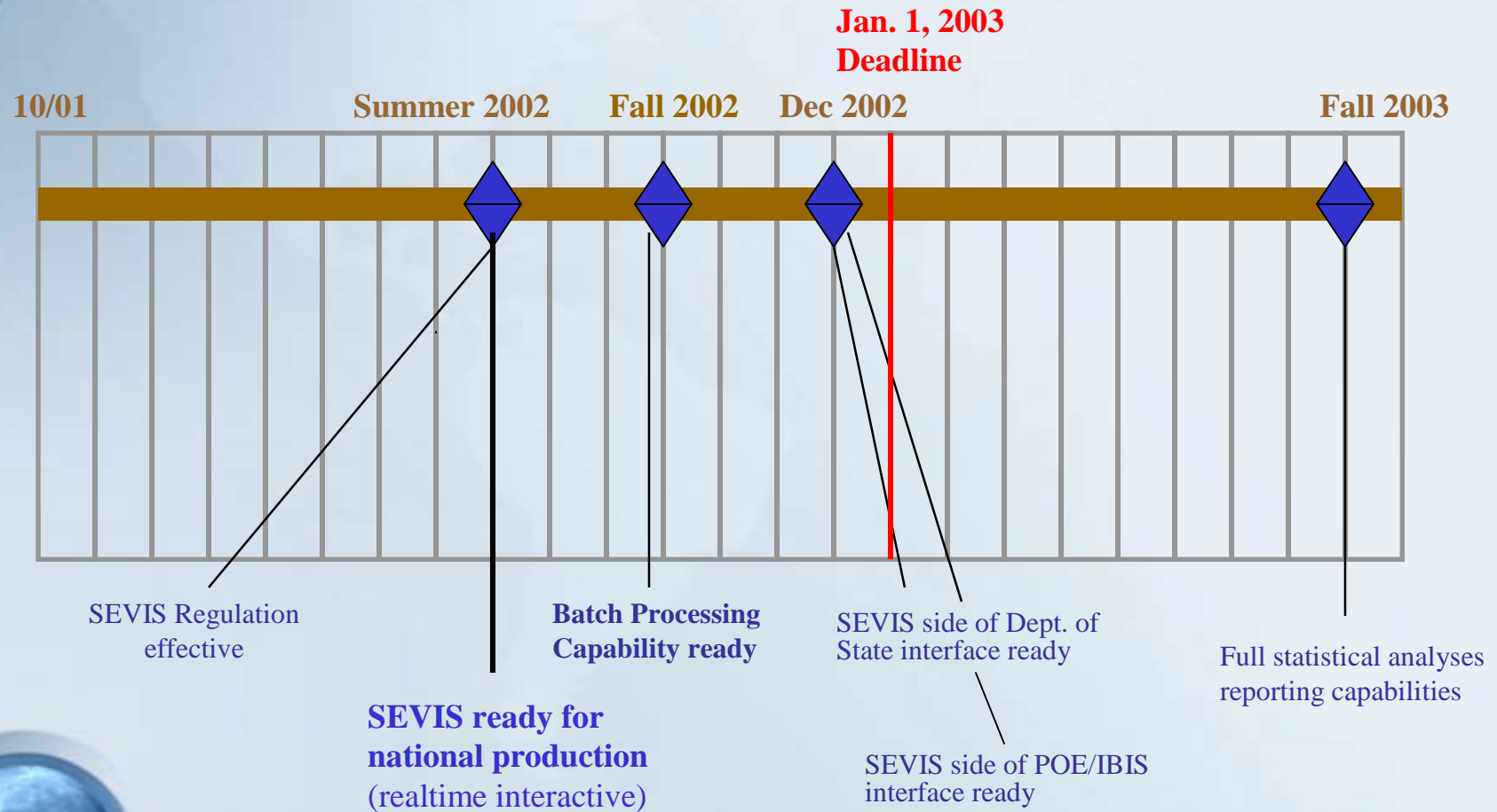


What's the benefit

- ** Enhance enforcement
- ** Accurate and timely data
- ** Enhance decision making
- ** Improve customer service
- ** Improved efficiency
- ** A better informed INS
- ** Savings by eliminating inefficient paper-based processes, storage, routing, etc.



SEVIS Timeline



SEVIS Technical Information



- ** INS sponsored multiple vendor conferences to specifically release SEVP/SEVIS technical specifications for XML/batch-interface. We published in the Commerce Business Daily and also sent information letters and emails to our entire known contact list. INS conducted six sessions in San Diego, CA (8/28-30/2001) and three sessions in Charleston, SC (9/4-6/2001).

- ** Currently, the most recent version of the SEVIS ICD (interface control document) with the **XML specifications**, as well as the presentation materials, are posted.



In Conclusion



SEVIS

Providing accurate, unambiguous,
current information

